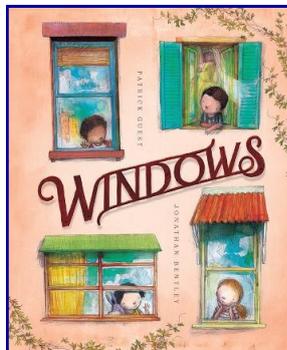


## Windows

By Patrick Guest & Illustrated by Jonathan Bentley  
 Publisher: Little Hare Books / Hardie Grant Egmont  
 ISBN 9781760507855 SCIS: 1980928  
 \$24.99

*Windows* is an uplifting story of how humanity has pulled together during the Coronavirus pandemic. Written from Patrick's own experience of having to leave the family home due to his son's Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, *Windows* shows how five kids from different parts of the world connect and draw strength from their communities from behind the safety of their own windows.

Heart warming, hopeful and surprisingly funny, *Windows* will resonate with families all over the world and become a valuable time capsule of what life was like in 2020.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### Themes:

- Windows
- Observation
- Love
- Covid-19 and Isolation
- Neighbours and Communities
- Hope
- Imagination

### Discussion Questions and Activities:

- What can you see from your window? Draw a picture of that view. Windows come in many shapes and sizes. Some appear in this book. Draw other windows that you notice near your home or school. Windows are for looking out from, or for looking in to. On pp 20–21, we see a series of windows from the outside. What can you see inside each of these windows?
- The book opens with words indicating that the world has changed. Explain to your children/students what the pandemic is in simple terms. Then invite children to discuss the ways in which Covid-19 has changed the world we live in.
- The children in this book see several shapes in the clouds. Invite children to look at the clouds and tell you what shapes they see.
- The community depicted here is multicultural. The friends have names that might indicate their backgrounds (Mikayla and Abu, Giuseppe, Kiyoshi, Akira). What cultures did you see represented in these images?
- Grandparents can be very special members of any family. During the crisis, many have been separated from their grandchildren. In *Windows*, Pop appears in the street outside the narrator's window and acts like a goose, but we actually see a number of 'Pops' acting the goose together (pp 26–7). Each of these 'Pops' is also very different to look at. Ask children what their grandparents have done during the crisis to stay in touch with them.
- Who do you love and why? Make a card to send to someone you love. You can find some templates on [www.windowsthebook.com](http://www.windowsthebook.com) if you would like to print some out.
- How is this book hopeful? What message does it convey about feelings during the Covid-19 crisis? What is hope? What makes you feel hopeful?
- *Mural*: Create a mural (either at home or at school) featuring images of children in windows side-by-side.
- *Silly faces*: The 'Pops' make a range of silly faces (pp 26–7 and pp 28–9). What silly faces can you make? Draw someone making a silly face. You could even draw them using their hands or legs to add to the silliness, as the Pops in this book do.